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Engineering Brothers Construct Holiday Reunion While Deployed In Iraq

By John Connor
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The Morgan Brothers - Brad, left, and Clay – are both U.S. Army engineer officers deployed to Iraq. The brothers were able to reunite during the holidays at FOB Delta. (Photo by Kevin Olsen, USACE)

FOB DELTA, Iraq--When two brothers stationed in Iraq couldn't be home with their families for the holidays, linking up with each other during the season was the next best thing.

Coordinating schedules and moving around Iraq isn't easy, but the Morgan brothers from Union City, Tenn., managed to pull it off and staged a two-man family reunion at Forward Operating Base Delta in Wassit Province.

The brothers – Clay and Brad – share many similarities. They are U.S. Army engineer officers, graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, and married with sons. During their time together over the holidays, they called home, played desert golf, visited reconstruction projects, and generally just hung out.

Desert golf? "We pulled out a 3-wood driver, a bag of golf balls and a scrap of Astroturf to drive some shots around our

camp for distance and accuracy,” explained Clay Morgan.

Maj. Clay Morgan, 33, graduated from West Point in 1997. He’s the Resident Officer at the Wassit Resident Office of the Gulf Region South District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Capt. Brad Morgan, 29, graduated from West Point in 2000. He’s an Army engineer officer serving as the Military Transition Team Leader for a 500-man Iraqi Reconnaissance Battalion in the 9th Iraqi Armored Division.

Clay leads a USACE team of engineers, including a number of Iraqis, responsible for executing various infrastructure projects throughout the province, valued at nearly \$25 million. He’s responsible for the development, planning and execution of reconstruction projects being done for the people of Iraq. He has been in Iraq since July 2007.

Brad is responsible for training and developing his unit’s leadership from squad leader to battalion commander and serves as the combat adviser during joint missions with Coalition Forces, mounted and dismounted. The unit’s mission is to conduct surveillance and security operations in the area north of Baghdad. Brad has been in Iraq since April 2007.

Brad was able to travel from FOB Taji to FOB Delta to share the holidays with brother Clay.

“We were able to tour the base, eat together at the DFAC (dining facility), make webcams and calls home, make site visits to reconstruction projects (Sheikh Saad Primary Healthcare Center, Sheikh Saad Bridge and Jazear Water Treatment Plant), enjoy a New Year’s bonfire party, a steak night cookout, rounds of desert golf, movie night and take the opportunity to rest and relax and enjoy each other’s company for the first time in a long time,” the brothers recounted in a joint recap of their time together.

Both brothers are married with have a son. Brad’s son was born five months ago during his deployment. “Luckily, Brad was home on leave for the birth,” brother Clay related.

“It is our honor and privilege to serve our nation as Army engineer officers,” the brothers said. “We feel very fortunate and grateful to have gotten the chance to share time and bring in the New Year together far from home.”

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